Amarra

Version 2.4
ReadMe

www.sonicstudio.com

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Amarra 2.4.2 Read Me (Build 4420)

September 2012

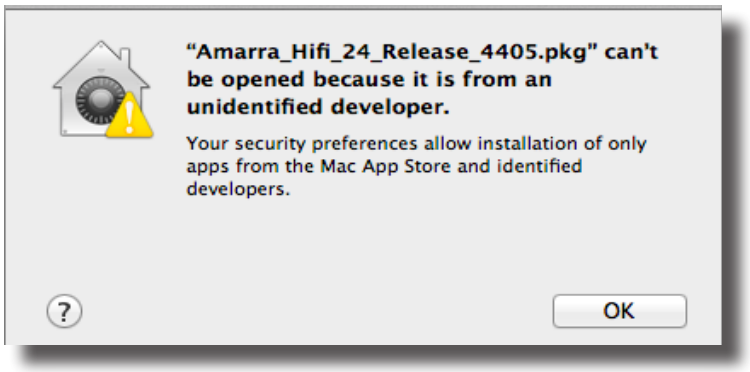
Thank you for downloading the Amarra 2.4.2 Release! Please read this document before installing and running Amarra 2.4.2, it contains important information about the installation and operation of your application.

Enjoy the music!

Important notes for Amarra 2.4.2

Using OS X 10.8 : Mountain Lion:

When using Mountain Lion based systems you will be prevented the initial launch of the Amarra or soundBlade installer application; see example below.


"Amarra_Hifi_24_Release_4405.pkg" can't be opened because it is from an unidentified developer.
Your security preferences allow installation of only apps from the Mac App Store and identified developers.
OK

Please use the following procedure if you see this warning.

- right-click or control+click on the Installer package
- select 'Open' in the contextual menu that's presented
- select Open in the next window - the installer then runs

Amarra 2.4.2 for Amarra Symphony Users:

Any owner of Amarra previous to 2.4 has the enhanced Amarra Symphony Feature set.
Amarra 2.4.2 can be Activated on Two (2) Computers using your Amarra Code.

Amarra 2.4.2 for Amarra and Amarra MINI Users:

Amarra 2.4.2 replaces Amarra 2.4, Amarra 2.3 or Amarra MINI 2.3 license
Amarra 2.4.2 can be Activated on One (1) Computer using either your Amarra or Amarra MINI Activation Code

Amarra supports Hardware Sample Rates up to 384 kHz:

Check your DAC for maximum supported hardware sample rate.
NOTE: If your DAC uses Upsampling there may be issues with using Amarra.

Amarra 2.4 uses a sofware based licensing method.

Please contact support@sonicstudio.com if you have a PACE iLOK™ to get a code.

The Software based activation allows you to:

1) Evaluate Amarra for 15 days.
2) Activate Amarra instantly.
3) Easily move licenses from Mac to Mac on your own.
4) Manage your licenses with your own License Control Panel (LCP).

All (new) Amarra Licences after release 2.4 may be installed on one (1) computer.
Any Amarra Licence issued prior to April 2012 will support two (2) licences.
Additonal licenses may be purchased for a reduced price.

NOTE: Please read the Amarra Activation Guide for detailed information on Activating your software and managing your licenses using the License Control Panel.

NOTE: In order for Amarra 2.4.2 to function properly, you should delete your existing Amarra preferences prior to using this version. See Section 4.0 of this document for more information on deleting Amarra preferences

See Section 8.0 below for a list of changes since v2.4.

1.0 Evaluation Mode

Evaluating Amarra has never been easier. Just launch Amarra and select the Evaluate button to access the full-feature 15-day evaluation version (Figure 1 below). No Email address required.

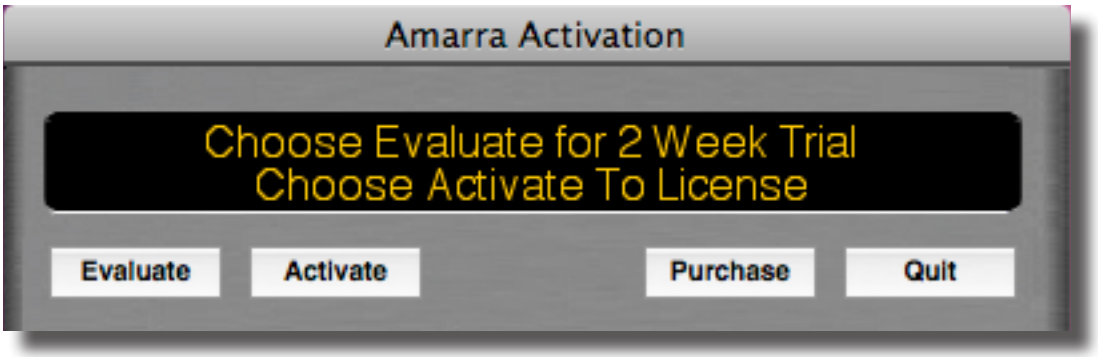


Figure 1

NOTE: If you have had an evaluation and would like to try Amarra again please write support@sonicstudio.com. We can assist with a second evaluation.

2.0 Licensing

Amarra licensing is granted using softare DNA from softWORKZ. Refer to the Amarra Activation Guide for more information on licensing your copy of Amarra.

NOTE: Have you misplaced your Activation Code / Serial Number ?
Please email support@sonicstudio.com and include :
1) Your name
2) Where you purchased Amarra
3) Title the email: "Need my serial number"

NOTE: Do Not remove or uninstall the current version of Amarra prior to installing the new release. This will allow for your new copy of Amarra to be automatically authorized when launched.

2.1 Activating Amarra with your Activation Code

When you purchase Amarra, you will be given a unique activation code. This activation code will be used to permanently enable Amarra to run on your computer.

If you purchased Amarra or Amarra MINI before April 15, 2011, use your Amarra or MINI product Serial Number as your Activation Code.

Please read the Amarra User Manual and Amarra Software Authorization Guide for more information.

3.0 Installation

Amarra is easy to install using the Amarra Installer. Please do not delete your previous version to allow for your license to be easily transferred to the new software.

3.1 Installation Steps and Running Amarra

1. Run the Amarra Installer and follow the on-screen directions.
   See the User Manual for detailed instructions on Installation.
2. Activating your Amarra product.
   See the Amarra Activation Guide for detailed information on Activation.

3.2 Permanently Uninstalling Amarra

1) Navigate to your Amarra application folder in your Mac's Applications folder.
2) Locate the Extras folder and open it.
3) Double click on the Uninstall Amarra.app.

This removes the Amarra application and FLAC components. You can quit Terminal after running.

4.0 Preferences

If your have a previous version of Amarra on you Mac, then first install the new software to allow your license to be updated properly. After installation, please delete your existing Amarra preferences prior to launching this version. This action is necessary to ensure Amarra 2.4 runs properly.

1) Navigate to your Amarra 2.4 application folder in your Mac's Applications folder. (see Figure 2)
2) Locate the Extras folder and open it.
3) Double click on the Delete Amarra Preferences.command utility.

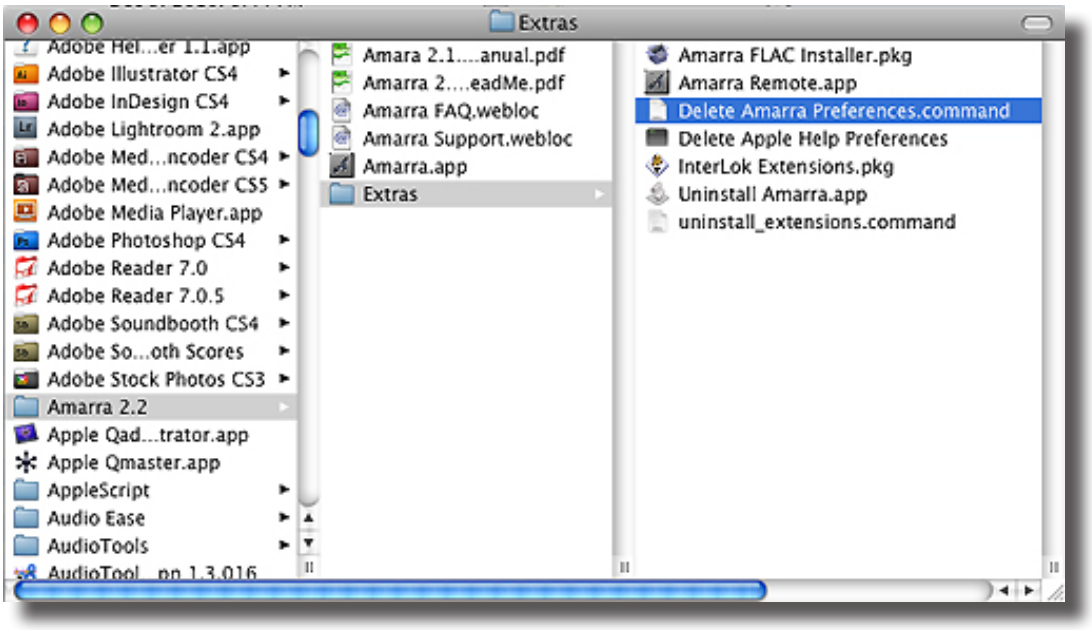


Figure 2

This will run the Terminal utility and delete existing Amarra preferences, restoring them to factory default. You can quit Terminal after running.

5.0 Application Requirements

Amarra requires the following:

Computer:

- Any Intel–based Mac - PPC / G5 is not supported.
- RAM: 4 GB minimum, 4 GB or more preferred
- I/O: Core Audio Interface (Built-in, Optical, USB, and FireWire)

Supported Audio Hardware Interfaces:

- Most USB and FireWire interfaces work well are recommended for best performance.

The built-in Audio (optical/digital) will work with Amarra, but have limited sample rate support. Please visit the Supported Hardware section of www.sonicstudio.com for more information.

Software:

- Mac OS X 10.6 and above recommended
- Amarra
- iTunes

NOTE: A network connection is required to authorize your software.

6.0 Contacting Us

Thanks for your purchase of Amarra . We really thank you for your support and are always interested in your experiences with Amarra .

For bug reports and support issues, visit:

www.sonicstudio.com

or email us:

support@sonicstudio.com

To suggest new features for our products, e–mail us at support@sonicstudio.com

For up to date information, please visit

www.sonicstudio.com

7.0 Software Updates

Use the “Check For Updates” Menu Command to check for any new updates, You can also enable the “Check For Updates” preference (in Preferences Window) which will provide notification on launch for new versions.

Updates to Amarra when available, can be found in the Downloads section of the Amarra website:

www.sonicstudio.com

8.0 Software Change Information

Changes since 2.4.1 —

Amarra / iTunes / Playlist

- Remove Low Memory warning
- Fix playback of compressed gapless files
- Fix entering Play Time in Playlist
- Fix volume control when using Rowmote application

Changes since 2.4 —

Amarra / iTunes

- Add Preload feature for Amarra
  - loads tracks or an album gapless playback
- Support for loading multiple tracks in Amarra Mode
  - Supports gapless playback in Amarra Mode
- Improve matching of iTunes and Amarra Volume
- Do Not Load "unchecked" tracks from iTunes

Playlist

All Tracks are loaded as Gapless into Playlist

- except when sample rate changes

- Fix bugs in skips in Playlist if sample rate changed
- Fix various bugs in FF / Rewind in Playlist
- Allow adding up to 99 tracks
- Fix Open Playlist Menu Command
- Improved delete, move up and move down tracks

Misc

- Fix Sample Rate Conversion if destination folder is on different Volume
- Fix bug when moving Amarra to a second screen (to left of main screen)
- Add warning when memory is low
- Fix certain PC based MP3 files (would cause noise on playback)
- Add Noise Shaped Dither
- Improvements to licensing and activation process
- Added Headphone Curves for Apple, Beats, and LCD-2
- Add "**Quit/Launch iTunes**" to Extras Menu
  - For improved performance.

Devices

- Fix bug when more than 6 devices in Audio MIDI Settings
- Fix incorrectly setting Audio Device when not following Core Audio
- Fix crashes when devices are added and removed
- Add Warning to Disable "User Core Audio" when setting different outputs
- Save audio device settings when user hits save in window

Changes since 2.3.3 —

• Improved Support for changing time using Time Display
    - Click and Drag up/down or left/right to change the Time
    - Drag far to speed up the time
    - Release
• Improvements to radio streaming (and switching from/to Amarra)
• Improvements to Amarra mode and skipping
• Allow up to 99 tracks using Load Tracks

• Better handling of sample rate changes in Playlist
• Improvements to Amarra Vertical Window
• Improvements to Authorization and Evaluation process
• Fix Save Playlist Command
• Add Open Recent Menu (for Playlists)
• Remove PPC support. Use Amarra 2.3 as last release.
• Add Open Recent Menu (for Playlists)

Changes since 2.3 —

•Amarra now checks for updates when launched (use Preference to disable checking).
• Fixes for skips on starting tracks and when switching sample rates
• Separate Artwork window
• Amarra now has choice of Vertical or Horiontal Window
• Addition of Keyboard Shortcuts: 1,2,3 (Source), 5/6 (Prev/Next Track), 8/9 (Volume)
• Switch to iTunes when playing a network radio stream (using iTunes).
• Support for PPC (please contact support for information)

Changes since 2.2.4—
• Amarra now sports a chic new look. Same sweet sound included.
    - Artwork is now shown (and can be hidden)
    - Improved integration with iTunes window
    - Improved integration with Playlist window
• Fixes for many bugs including, but not limited to:
    - Fixes for crashes with metadata in FLAC files
    - Fixes for supporting Hog Mode with Sonic Hardware
    - Fixes for handling artwork
    - Fixes for saving EQ default settings
    - Fix for cache size (above 2G).

Changes since 2.2.1 —
    • Amarra now supports 384 kHz sound file playback.
    • Performance improvements
    • Close many memory leaks
    • Fix opening of FLAC files with IDv3 Tags
    • Fix text display when resizing Playlist window
    • Add On/Off state for switching to iTunes
    • Easier to use licensing and evaluation.
    • Display of unicode character sets (non-ascii) enhancements

• Playback of compressed files
  - Improves FLAC files not playing or producing noise
• Improved interaction with iTunes/Apple Remote Volume and iTunes
  - iTunes volume now follows Amarra - but is now “muted” with improved tracking
• Pause and Skip track using Amarra
• Automatic setting of EQ Preset based on Setting in iTunes Track Info
  - Added preference ‘Link iTunes EQ’. Disabled by default.
• CACHE Mode Enabled Setting (allows Memory playback to remain “ON” in subsequent launch).
• Refinements for gapless playback using Playlist Mode.
• Refinements for volume control.
• Refinements for metadata reading.
• Added Open Movie command to File menu of Amarra.
• Include Quicktime application to extract the audio and create an AIFF file
  - this will be integrated into Amarra at some point.

Changes since 2.1 —

• Fix issues with display of unicode character sets (non-ascii)
• Fix problems with playing files (compressed files)
    - Improves files not playing or producing noise on FLAC files
• Improved interaction with iTunes/Apple Remote Volume and iTunes
    - iTunes volume now follows Amarra - but is now "muted"
• Add “Link Remote” to keep Amarra Playlists and iTunes in sync
    Amarra loads songs into Playlist based on selection in iTunes / Remote
• Fix problems with Pause and Skip using Amarra
• Fixes for DroboFS (currently only non-compressed files are supported)
• Fix Crash on Open From Finder
• Add Automatic setting of EQ Preset based on Setting in iTunes Track Info

Changes since 2.0 —

• Added support for full Memory Playback
    • On loading Tracks in Amarra
    • On loading Tracks in Playlist
    • On playing Tracks if not loaded
    • Uses up to 1 Gig of memory
    • Space is freed on clearing Playlist
• Fix various issues with not playing compressed files
    • clicks on certain MP3s
    • not being able to open/play files with long names
• Improvements to Amarra Window
    • Button to “sync” Amarra / iTunes window positions.
    • Playlist controls: when Playlist selected as Source
      - Button to Show/Hide Playlist window
      - Menu for commands
• Add support for DSD to AIFF conversion.
• Fix various bugs.

Changes since 1.2 —

- Improved User Interface and sound quality.
• New Playlist window. Allows you to create and save custom Playlists within Amarra. Our beta testers report improved audio quality using Playlist mode when compared to iTunes mode.
• Support for FLAC, AAC and MP3 playback.
Note: FLAC playback requires installing FLAC components.
Note: Fluke required for use with iTunes.
• Improved Background Manager.
Sample rate covers ion improvements and enhancements.
• Support for FLAC conversion to AIFF
• Improved support for non-latin character sets and extended file names.
• Support for NoNOISE broadband noise removal option.
• Dither and Output Wordlength settings.
• Improved Background Manager user interface.
• Improved Sonic EQ interface: Save and recall your favorite settings.

9.0 Known Issues

Please refer to your documentation or visit our website for the latest information.

• Clear Playlist may crash.

• Amarra can not play “psuedo”-files in iTunes created by other players
(i.e. Pure Music flac alias files).

• Some MP3 files may display an incorrect rate in a Playlist.

• Some network drives may not work well with Amarra.
The DroboShare is one example.

• Files with “:” or quotes may not play.

• Apple Lossless
- Earlier versions of Apple Lossless files may not play
- Apple Lossless created in Max and xld may not play correctly
Note: Converting to AIFF and back to ALAC using iTunes is a work around.

• There are still some issues with file names containing quotes ‘“‘not playing.

• Very large iTunes libraries (> 30,000 tracks) may have problems with skipping tracks.

• There is a small issue in Amarra that may require the application be rebooted when left running for few days.

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